

**NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT
FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

OCTOBER 1, 1997 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

A Comprehensive Program for the Promotion and Improvement of Library Services for the People of the State of New Hampshire Through the Use of Local, State, and Federal Resources.

The New Hampshire Department of Cultural Affairs
New Hampshire State Library
20 Park Street
Concord NH 03301-6314
1997

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William Wickham	Bedford

201-A:3 State Library Advisory Council; Membership. The state library advisory council shall consist of 19 members. Three public members shall be appointed by the governor and council, no more than two of whom shall be of the same political party. One member shall be appointed by the state board of education. Six members shall be appointed by the state librarian. Nine members shall be appointed as follows:

I. Five appointed by the New Hampshire Library Association who shall broadly represent public, academic, and special libraries.

II. Two appointed by the New Hampshire Educational Media Association to represented school libraries.

III. One appointed by the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association.

IV. One appointed by the Association of New Hampshire Library Friends.

Source: New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated.

This Five-Year State Plan has been developed to ensure that all persons in New Hampshire, irrespective of place of residence, physical disability, or social or economic circumstance will have equal access to quality library service. The state library administrative agency has sought the advice of the library community in the development of this five-year plan. The State Librarian and Administrator of Library Operations/LSTA Coordinator have worked with the New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council, New Hampshire Automated Information Systems Board, State Library staff members, and members of the library community in the preparation of the plan.

LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT PLAN: 2000 AND BEYOND

On September 30, 1996, President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as part of the Omnibus Consolidation Appropriations Act (Public Law No. 104-208). LSTA replaces the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and provides state-based funding for a variety of purposes. New Hampshire had been an early supporter of the original Library Services Act in 1956. The state quickly embraced the new program and began a long and successful effort to improve library services in New Hampshire. Some of the earliest statewide automation activities in the nation were started in New Hampshire with the strong support of LSCA funds. Now, as before, New Hampshire is eager to put the new LSTA program to work in the state striving to meet new goals in response to the new purposes of LSTA. Chief among these purposes are: the establishment of electronic linkages among libraries, library consortia, and career centers; paying costs for libraries to acquire or share computer systems and communications technology; and targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children in poverty.

Public Law 104-208 also provides that programs formerly administered by the U.S. Department of Education are transferred to the newly formed Institute of Museum and Library Services. As fiscal year 1997 will clearly be one of transition, one of the principal purposes of this plan is to permit the orderly and effective transition in the operation of library programs under LSCA to the operation of programs under the new LSTA.

In order to effect a smooth transition, the State Librarian along with members of the State Library's Library Development Section attended a series of Area Library Forums and meetings of library cooperatives in order to obtain input from all types of libraries and the community at large. Participation was excellent and meaningful discussion took place regarding possible changes in State Library services, service priorities, and the planned use of LSTA funds in the ways best to improve access to the state's library and information resources.

The State Librarian presented his findings to the New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council along with a broad outline of a proposed five-year plan. Following a thorough review which included several recommendations, the Council advised the State Librarian to develop a Preliminary Plan to be submitted to the Director of Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which was done by the April 1, 1997 deadline.

The Council was fully aware that further input, discussion, and revision would be required before the plan could be presented in final form. The Advisory Council had planned to hold a full day retreat in March to work on the plan, but inclement weather forced a postponement until April 11 when the Council retreat was held. At the retreat, the Council focused on core library values in light of the changing technological and cultural environment in which we find ourselves. Attention was also directed toward the strengths and weaknesses of the current library situation in New Hampshire as well as toward the opportunities and threats facing libraries.

The preliminary plan and other background information were posted on the State Library's web page along with a request for comments. Flyers outlining the goals of the five-year plan were sent to all libraries and were available at the Spring Conference of the New Hampshire Library Association. At that meeting staff from the State Library answered questions and recorded comments from attendees. Additionally, the New Hampshire Automated Information Systems Board, which has been meeting since August 1996 to revise the system's strategic plan, completed the revision in June. That revision and final LSTA plan, was shared with the Advisory Council and the library community at large. This strategic plan is significant because it will affect the direction the state will be taking with much of its library automated for years to come. Because of the technology focus of LSTA, the NHAIS strategic plan has had a significant impact on the final LSTA plan. At their June meeting the Advisory Council tested the LSTA plan against the NHAIS strategic plan. It was determined that most of the goals of the NHAIS strategic plan were covered by the LSTA plan and while they will each stand as separate documents they are in harmony. It also became clear that the Council and the Board will need to work cooperatively to ensure that limited federal and state resources are used to meet the goals set forth in the plans.

INTRODUCTION

On September 30, 1996, President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as part of the Omnibus Consolidation Appropriations Act (Public Law No. 104-208). LSTA replaces the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and provides state-based funding for a variety of purposes. New Hampshire had been an early supporter of the original Library Services Act in 1956. The state quickly embraced the new program and began a long and successful effort to improve library services in New Hampshire. Some of the earliest statewide automation activities in the nation were started in New Hampshire with the strong support of LSCA funds. Now, as before, New Hampshire is eager to put the new LSTA program to work in the state striving to meet new goals in response to the new purposes of LSTA. Chief among these purposes are: the establishment of electronic linkages among libraries, library consortia, and career centers; paying costs for libraries to acquire or share computer systems and communications technology; and targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children in poverty.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE'S LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SYSTEM: A Heritage of Innovative Resource Sharing

Approximately 700 libraries presently deliver library and informational services to the residents of New Hampshire and many of these libraries share resources electronically through the New Hampshire Automated Information System.

Public Libraries. New Hampshire, where the first free tax-supported public library opened to all in 1833, has 232 public libraries today. With the exception of the residents of several hamlets in the geographically isolated northern part of the state, 99.1% of the state's population of 1,109,252 is directly served by local public libraries. Local support for public libraries has continued to increase with the average per capita support going from \$14.76 in 1989 to \$17.48 in 1996. New Hampshire does not have any regional or county library systems, but it does have a variety of voluntary library cooperatives. The Greater Manchester Integrated Cooperative Library System (GMILCS) is the largest automation cooperative in the state and is now serving more than one quarter of the state's population.

Statewide Library Development System. The statewide library development system was statutorily established in 1981 in accordance with the state's policy of securing the best possible library services for all its citizens. Its purpose is to encourage cooperative efforts and to provide appropriate aid and services to city and town libraries. Under this system, the state is divided into six areas and each area conducts Area Library Forums on a regularly scheduled basis. The Forums are open to all public, school, academic, and special libraries. Topics discussed and acted upon at these meetings include advances in interlibrary standards. The Forums also make recommendations to the New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council on a wide range of issues. Public libraries that participate in the statewide library development system must comply with the New Hampshire Public Library Standards. These Standards are promulgated by the State Library and are currently being revised to reflect developments in information technologies. The proposed new standards will, for example, require that a library have a written technology plan.

On a less formal level are the six independently functioning library cooperatives, which are originally conceived for different purposes than those of the Area Library Forums and are now becoming quite similar to them. Each cooperative is a part of an Area Library Forum and geographic boundaries often coincide making it now necessary to redefine them so they may become more effective components of the New Hampshire Automated Information System.

New Hampshire Automated Information System. The New Hampshire Automated Information System (NHAIS) is a statewide, multitype computerized library network established statutorily in 1982. The system's bibliographic database is the result of the State Library performing the cataloging for a significant number of libraries in the state through OCLC, beginning in 1980. At present there are over 1,000,000 unique titles in the database, which comprises the New Hampshire Union Public Access Catalog (NHU-PAC). Libraries contribute their holding information to this union catalog, and of the 312 libraries that use the system, 232 have signed the state's Interlibrary Loan Protocol agreement. In addition to the extensive bibliographic resources available on the NHU-PAC, the system also serves as a gateway that makes it possible for libraries to access the Internet. The State Library provides member libraries of NHAIS with a free dial-up connection via a public packet switched network. System's libraries are able to search the Internet at no cost. FTP and Telnet capabilities are available as an option and e-mail is available to all participants. Libraries are also able to connect to Webster, a World Wide Web site for state government information developed and managed by the State Library as part of NHAIS. Webster also connects libraries and individuals to State Library resources and points them to other library resources.

New Hampshire libraries have operated in a networked setting over the past 15 years, utilizing a combination of federal, state, private, and local funds. Although the major funding for public libraries has come from local sources, significant amounts have been appropriated by the state for library technology and telecommunications. The state has also supported the libraries of the State College and University System. During this period, federal funds have provided the incentive and additional support for libraries to engage in innovative projects that have changed the nature of library services, both in content and delivery. Federal library funding under such legislation as the Library Services and Construction Act or the Higher Education Act has combined with state, local, and private funding to allow the library community to make enormous strides in delivering high quality library and information services to citizens of New Hampshire. It is certain that additional New Hampshire libraries will be able to deliver improved services to their various clienteles under the new consolidating and modernizing legislation.

College and University Libraries. The New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC) is a non-profit consortium of 13 four-year, public and private institutions of higher education in the state of New Hampshire. Founded in 1966, the Council's mission is the advancement of public and private education in the state. Through collaborative efforts between the 13 member colleges and universities, the consortium has been able to enhance the educational opportunities for the nearly 50,000 students currently attending these schools. The library directors of the NHCUC libraries comprise the Libraries Committee, one of the NHCUC policy committees. The New Hampshire State Library is a member of the Libraries Committee and the State Librarian meets regularly with them to increase access to research and reference resources on the statewide multitype library system. It was through the NHCUC that the state received funding under the Higher Education Act to assist in the development of the original NHAIS. Continued participation by the college and university libraries in the promotion of statewide resource sharing is vital and extremely beneficial to all types of libraries. It is intended that LSTA funds will be used to enhance this long-standing relationship.

School Libraries and Media Centers. New Hampshire has 448 public schools and their library needs are met by 231 certified libraries media personnel. In addition there are a significant number of preparatory schools, parochial schools, and private academics in the state. Many school libraries are now entering bibliographic information into the statewide database and resource sharing at the secondary school level flourishes through the New Hampshire Automated Information system. School libraries also account for more than half of all the document delivery requests the State Library receives through its Article Express service, a component of NHAIS.

Special Libraries. Health science, law libraries, and corporate libraries make up the bulk of the special libraries in New Hampshire. These libraries are active in resource sharing activities with other types of libraries in the state. Through membership in the Area Library Forums, other types of special libraries including historical society libraries, museum libraries, art gallery libraries, and church libraries are active participants in resource sharing.

Government Document Depository Libraries. There are ten Federal Depository Libraries in New Hampshire. They consist of six academic libraries, two public libraries, the State Library, and the Supreme Court Library. Each is a selective depository and is able to select those U.S. Government publications that it desires to receive. Selection is based on the informational needs of the clientele that it services and the depository libraries have been engaged in cooperative efforts in order to limit duplicate acquisitions. Other cooperative ventures have included staff development, retention policies, and resource sharing. In January 1997, the State Library began the monthly loading of bibliographic records for depository items received by the Federal Depository Libraries in New Hampshire into the NHU-PAC.

There are twenty-one libraries in New Hampshire that are members of the State Publications Depository Library Program. Participating libraries are designated by the State Librarian on the basis of their ability to provide adequate facilities for storage and use. The documents must be readily retrievable and available to patrons without charge. Depositories are spread throughout the state in such a way as to make state publications available to residents regardless of place of residence. The State Librarian has recently been working with the State Legislature to increase markedly the amount of state publications available in electronic format through Webster and the establishment of more public access points to Webster.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This LSTA plan is built on a foundation of shared values and principles as solid as the bedrock from which the state nickname “the Granite State” is derived. As a result of the State Library Advisory Council’s retreat and other information gathering activities, a set of core values and roles emerged as did agreement on the overall mission of libraries in this new era of enhanced electronic resources and greater access to information.

Core Values:

There was consensus that libraries are: social and community centers, which provide equal access to quality information, designed to increase the level of “knowledge” in a community. Libraries represent social capital that makes people’s lives better. They are non-secular service oriented institutions for all age groups. They are a safe place fostering intellectual freedom and inventiveness.

Library Mission:

The Library mission of providing recreational reading and information accessible to all segments of the population may be enhanced by the new information technologies, but these traditional missions must also reflect the cultural diversity of the state and nation. The Library mission as well as this plan need to take into account that not all library uses will physically be served in a library.

Library Roles:

Library roles of new or growing importance in libraries are promoting and making reading easier; providing information; teaching customers how to use and get information; equalizer; improving the learning environment of a community, leading customers to information that is reliable; providing reader advisory services and guidance in selecting and using information resources and providing information more fully.

A number of weaknesses and threats to libraries were identified in the course of the retreat and in other information gathering activities with the library community. They include the Internet; inadequate funding; the rate of technological change; the lack of technology (particularly in small libraries); an aging profession; a lack of professional training opportunities; limited hours; inadequate parking; and the need to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This plan recognizes that LSTA can not, nor should it, address all of these perceived weaknesses and threats. However, this plan is seen as directing LSTA funds to goals and objectives that will have the greatest chance of turning many of them into strengths and opportunities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Working from the premise that all residents of New Hampshire should and will have maximum opportunities to work, learn, exercise civic responsibility, and enjoy a life of quality through unrestricted access to information, the State Library, in conjunction with the New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council, has identified the following areas of concern that must be addressed if libraries are to continue to be meaningful conduits of information:

- Increased access to information through improved telecommunications and technology.
- More effective training and education of librarians, library staff, public officials, and the public in the critical importance of the library in an information environment.
- Increased demand for networked information services by the public.
- As our state becomes increasingly diverse in its population make-up it is necessary to determine what non-traditional or new library services will now be required.
- The compelling need to place libraries in their rightful place in a learning society and to present increased justification for strong local and state support.

These needs, along with several others, are addressed in New Hampshire's five-year plan during the period from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 2002. Three goals will serve as ultimate targets in accomplishing the intent of the plan through the setting of priorities in the stated time span. At least 96% of the funds allocated under LSTA will be used to carry out the first two goals.

INFORMATION ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Goal 1 Every resident of New Hampshire will have access to a wide array of library and information resources either electronically or in traditional fashion and, when necessary, will be afforded that assistance required for the optimum utilization of technology.

To reach this goal the State Library shall provide direction and assistance in the accomplishment of the following objectives through a combination of competitive grants to all types of libraries and the use of LSTA funds by the State Library.

Object 1.1 Establish or enhance electronic linkages between and among all types of libraries to provide faster and increased access to networked information.

1.1.1 Maintain State Library Internet (or successor technology) connections. (1997-2002)

1.1.2 Establish a frame relay connection or something similar at the State Library. (1998)

1.1.3 Increase the number of libraries with high speed, broad bandwidth connections to the New Hampshire Automated Information System and/or the Internet (or its successor technologies). (1998-2002)

1.1.4 Digitize selected, unique library collections and make them accessible through the World Wide Web. (1999-2002)

1.1.5 Increase public access to specialized resource and research collections through the New Hampshire Automated Information System. (1998-2002)

Object 1.2 Provide assistance to libraries to facilitate ease of access to information through electronic networks.

1.2.1 Establish training programs for librarians and library staff to give them the knowledge necessary to provide library patrons with high level assistance in the areas of electronic information. (1997-2002)

1.2.2 Coordinate and offer workshops within the state and region on the uses of the latest information technologies. (1998-2002)

1.2.3 Offer grants and other support to librarians in all types of libraries to enable them to acquire additional training so they may provide technical assistance and training to other librarians (Train the Trainer). (1998-2002)

Objective 1.3 Encourage libraries in different areas of the state to establish multitype library consortia and increase the quality of magnitude of resource sharing.

1.3.1 Continue to assist all types of libraries in entering their bibliographic data into the automated statewide union database (NHU-PAC). (1997-2002)

1.3.2 Decrease the turn around time in the resource sharing process by maintaining and expanding (using state funds when possible) the statewide van delivery system. (1998-2002)

1.3.3 Expand the capacity of libraries to transmit requested information electronically. (1998-2002)

Objective 1.4 Provide guidance and leadership through the State Library's Library Development Section, to ensure coordinated library development - including the development of electronic access and networked services - in all regions of the state.

1.4.1 Provide advisory and consultative services to make it possible for libraries to plan and develop library services tailored to meet local needs. (1997-2002)

1.4.2 In concert with the state Department of Education, College for Lifelong Learning, the New Hampshire Technical and Community Colleges, and the state's library associations, develop recommendations and an implementation schedule to provide library staff members with the skills necessary to provide service in an electronic environment. (1998)

1.4.3 Within federal guidelines, work with the library community, library supporters, and state and local officials to ensure that libraries acquire the funding needed for them to serve their uses in the world of electronic and networked information. (1999-2002)

1.4.4 Work with librarians, archivists, and manuscript curators in preserving endangered resources and in providing alternative electronic access. (1998-2002)

Objective 1.5 Make research and special collections in the state's research libraries available to the public through strengthening and streamlining the resource sharing capabilities of these libraries.

1.5.1 Provide grant funds to academic and other libraries to assist them in making special materials available to residents through interlibrary loan and in providing reference service either on-site or via the Internet. (1998-2002)

1.5.2 Improve public access to government information via the New Hampshire Automated Information System and by providing special and unique materials in full text on the statewide system. (1998-2002)

1.5.3 Purchase database licenses for statewide access to reference sources available via the Internet to enhance library reference services. (1997-2002)

1.5.4 Acquire additional materials in various formats (print, CD-ROM, video) to strengthen the State Library's collections and thereby significantly improve its role as a major research and resource sharing center in the state. (1998-2002)

1.5.5 Expand and enhance Webster, the New Hampshire State government World Wide Web home page. (1998-2002)

1.5.6 Provide the appropriate incentives to guarantee that every library will have at least one public access terminal with a direct connection to Webster by the year 2002. (1997-2002)

INFORMATION EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPECIAL SERVICES

GOAL 2 New Hampshire residents irrespective of geographic location, socio-economic or cultural background, level of literacy skill, physical or mental condition, or age and ability will have electronic or on-site equal access to library and information services.

To reach this goal the State Library shall provide direction and assistance in the accomplishment of the following objectives by employing library specialists at the State Library and through competitive grants to all types of libraries.

Objective 2.1 Develop and implement plans to expand and improve library services currently available to New Hampshire's diverse populations.

2.1.1 Strengthen through grants the State Library services the services of public libraries serving those persons in rural areas who have difficulty in using a library. (1998-2002)

2.1.2 Work with the various literacy agencies serving adults in the state to promote literacy and reading. (1998-2002)

2.1.3 Work to improve the state's institutional libraries (including county jails) by making such libraries eligible to apply for technology plans. (1998-2002)

2.1.4 Provide encouragement and support to libraries in the development of summer reading programs and after school programs directed toward the improve-ment of reading. (1998-2002)

2.1.5 Improve and expand the state's Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped's services to persons with disabilities in New Hampshire. (1998-2002)

2.1.6 Provide libraries with the necessary assistance in acquiring and using technology designed to make library resources and services available to persons with special needs and promote such services. (1998-2002)

2.1.7 Make increased educational and training opportunities available to librarians and trustees in order to make them cognizant of the changing nature of library services and to prepare them for the effective delivery of library services in the future. (1998-2002)

ADMINISTRATION

GOAL 3 Efficient and effective administration of the Library Services and Technology Act program to accomplish the objectives of the five-year plan.

Objective 3.1 Administer the five-year plan in accordance with the requirements contained in all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.

3.1.1 Initiate and maintain the fiscal controls and accounting procedures that will ensure that funds granted under LSTA will be disbursed and recorded in an accepted and efficient manner. (1997-2002)

3.1.2 Work with the State Library Advisory Council and the New Hampshire Automated Information Systems Board to plan, propose, implement, and evaluate grants to all types of libraries. (1997-2002)

3.1.3 Continue to use the Area Library Forums as a means of communicating local needs to the State Library and for the State Library to advise libraries on LSTA. (1997-2002)

3.1.4 Maintain sufficient staff levels in order to administer, plan, and monitor programs and projects funded under LSTA. (1998-2002)

Objective 3.2 Promote public awareness of LSTA programs among all types of libraries and statewide library associations and organizations.

3.2.1 Collect and disseminate information through State Library publications and other appropriate publications in both print and electronic formats. (1997-2002)

3.2.2 Continue to use the State Library's Web page to increase library and public awareness of the activities being carried out under the LSTA plan. (1997-2002)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

STATEWIDE SERVICES

It has long been the policy of New Hampshire State government to secure the best possible library service for all of its citizens through the efficient use of available resources. This has meant the development of close cooperation amongst all types of libraries and the funding and delivery of statewide services by the State Library. In addition to the 4% that is allowable under LSTA for administration, the State Library will use LSTA funds to sustain a variety of statewide level services such as the New Hampshire Union Public Access Catalog; interlibrary loan and resource sharing services; reference and information services for public libraries; and services to persons with disabilities

GRANTS

A portion of the funds allocated under LSTA will be awarded as grants to libraries on a competitive basis in four program areas and shall be monitored and administered by appropriate professional librarians, with the advice and guidance of the New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council.

Grant guidelines and application procedures will be developed by State Library staff in accordance with the purposes of LSTA.

Awards in Category I will be made for projects that establish or enhance electronic linkages between or among libraries; link libraries electronically with educational, social, or information services; and assist libraries in accessing information through electronic networks. Priority will be given to consortia and cooperative projects.

Grant funds awarded under Category II will be used for training librarians in the efficient uses of new technologies to improve public access to information; to encourage libraries to establish consortia; and assist libraries to acquire and share computer systems and telecommunications equipment.

Category III grants will be for library and information service projects designed to reach persons who have difficulty using a library and to understand urban and rural communities (including children and families below the poverty line). Emphasis will be placed on grants that address adult literacy and children's and young adult's reading programs. Grants will also be aimed at improving access to information for residents of state and county institutions.

Category IV will be for the preservation and conservation of significant library materials held by the states various libraries. Grant projects, which emphasize access to these materials, will receive priority.

Generally speaking, grant funds will not be available to supplant local support of ongoing operations or to augment operational budgets. Instead, grants will be used to provide incentives for developing cooperation and local and regional funding initiatives.

EVALUATION

Evaluation of the state program will be carried out on two levels at the state level. The first will be the evaluation of specific projects. The second evaluation will be of the overall state program.

An evaluation team has been formed at the State Library made up of specialists in various areas. These include such areas as electronic information transmission; the Internet and Web page development; interlibrary loan and resource sharing; institutional librarianship; library development; and children's library programs.

The evaluation team will work with persons from the library community to develop criteria by which to evaluate project results. In some instances, when the team feels the need for a view from an independent perspective, outside evaluators may be used.

To evaluate the overall program, measurements are being designed for each of the activities aimed at achieving each objective. A variety of evaluative techniques will be employed, including quantitative measures such as resource sharing fill rates and turn-around-time per transaction. More qualitative measures, such as survey instruments will be used to gauge customer satisfaction and the effectiveness of various activities.

Over the past year the State Library has been conducting a series of surveys to establish benchmarks for future evaluations. Among them have been surveys in the following areas: technology in public libraries; library staff and trustee educational levels and needs; and Internet access in public libraries. These surveys will be repeated at least annually over the 5-year period of the LSTA plan.

Evaluation results will be reported regularly to the State Library Advisory Council, the New Hampshire Automated Information Systems Board, and the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Advisory Council's Web page will be expanded to include reports and evaluations of all LSTA funded projects and activities.

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APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR COMPLETION OF THE FINAL LSTA PLAN

- April 11, 1997 New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council Retreat to focus on LSTA Plan (postponed from March due to inclement weather)
- April 30, 1997 Universal Service Summit Called by the State Library to bring library, school and hospital leaders together to discuss the impact of FCC discounted telecommunications rates for libraries, schools and hospitals and to explore actions New Hampshire might take.
- May 20-22 New Hampshire Library Association Spring Conference The State Library presented the preliminary LSTA Plan and conducted discussions with various groups attending the meeting.
- May - June Hearing on Proposed New Hampshire Automated Information Strategic (NHAIS) Plan Two statewide public hearings were held to present and hear reaction to the proposed plan.
- June 13, 1997 New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council Meeting The LSTA Plan was reviewed and tested against the NHAIS Strategic Plan
- June 19, 1997 New Hampshire Automated Information Systems Board Meeting Discussion and adoption of the Strategic Plan
- July 11, 1997 New Hampshire State Library Advisory Council Meeting Final review, discussion and adoption of the Five-Year LSTA Plan.
- August 1, 1997 Deadline for submission of Five-Year Plan to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

APPEXDIX B

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LIBRARY FACT SHEET MAY 1997 LSTA

The Library Services and Technology Act

On September 30, 1996, President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as part of the Omnibus Consolidation Appropriations Act (Public Law No. 104-208). LSTA replaces the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and provides state-based funding for a variety of purposes. Chief among these purposes are: the establishment of electronic linkages among libraries, library consortia, and career centers; paying costs for libraries to acquire or share computer systems and communications technology; and targeting library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children in poverty.

On April 1, 1997, the State Library submitted a preliminary plan (plan to plan) to the Institute of Museum and Library Services in accordance with the new law. The final 5-year plan is due in Washington, D.C. on August 1, 1997. The full text of the Preliminary Plan is available on the State Library's home page at <www.state.nh.us/nhsl/nhlac/lsta.html>. The plan identifies the following goals and objectives:

INFORMATION ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Every resident of New Hampshire will have access to a wide array of library and information resources either electronically or in traditional fashion and, when necessary, will be afforded the assistance required for the optimum utilization of technology.

- Objective: Establish or enhance electronic linkages between and among libraries to provide faster and increased access to networked information.
- Objective: Provide assistance to libraries to facilitate ease of access to information through electronic networks.
- Objective: Encourage libraries in different areas to establish multitype library consortia and increase the quality and magnitude of resource sharing.
- Objective: Provide guidance and leadership through the State Library's Library Development Section, to ensure coordinated library development - including the development of electronic access and networked services - in all sections of the state.
- Objective: Make research collections in the state's research libraries available to the public through strengthening and streamlining their resource sharing capabilities.

INFORMATION EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPECIAL SERVICES

New Hampshire residents irrespective of geographic location, socio-economic or cultural background, level of literacy skill, physical or mental condition, or age and ability will have electronic or on-site equal access to library and information services.

Objective: Develop and implement plans to expand and improve library services currently available to New Hampshire's diverse populations.

ADMINISTRATION

Efficient and effective administration of the Library Services and Technology Act program to accomplish the objectives of the five-year plan.

Objective: Administer the five-year plan in accordance with the requirements contained in all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations.

Objective: Promote public awareness of LSTA programs among all types of libraries and statewide library associations and organizations.

YOUR INPUT IS VALUABLE

To assist the State Library Advisory Council and the State Librarian in developing the five-year plan your comments on the preliminary plan are encouraged.

Please send any comment to:

Ann Geisel, Chair
N.H. State Library Advisory Council
New Hampshire State Library
20 Park Street
Concord NH 03301-6314

Or, e-mail your comments to:

Darlene@lilac.nhsl.lib.nh.us
Subject: LSTA PLAN

APPENDIX C

New Hampshire Automated Information System

Strategic Plan Framework

Adopted June 19, 1997

MISSION STATEMENT

The N.H. Automated Information System shall promote and improve access to library and information resources for and about New Hampshire.

GOALS

1. Provide a program of services that connects people and libraries to information resources.
2. Eliminate barriers to access to information.
3. Ensure the long-term viability of NHAIS and assure managerial efficiency of the system.
4. Advocate for the public right to information.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Libraries provide a place for people without computers to get access to information.
2. Libraries must become gateways to information resources.
3. Information seekers will demand the ability to receive what they need when and where they want it and in a form which meets their needs.
4. A cooperatively developed telecommunications backbone and library network is in the best interest of the citizens of New Hampshire.
5. Statewide coordination of automation activities will ensure the greatest return on the investment in library automation technologies.
6. Funding for automated circulation control systems (either stand-alone or multi- library) is the responsibility of each library or group of libraries.
7. The ability to link library systems is necessary for the development of automated library resource sharing.
8. Libraries will rely more and more on the ability to electronically transfer documents as the need for ownership gives way to the ability to access information.
9. A combination of state, local, federal, and private funds will be necessary to sustain library activities.
10. Intellectual freedom is a prerequisite to full, fair, and equal access to information.

GOAL 1

Provide a program of services that connects people and libraries to information resources.

OBJECTIVE

1.1 Provide New Hampshire residents access to state, regional, national, and international resources

1.2 Facilitate the efficient and timely exchange of information and encourage community networking

1.3 Make more electronic information available.

GOAL 2

Eliminate barriers to access to information

OBJECTIVE

2.1 Establish standards of connectivity Z39.50

2.2 Assure that every library is equipped with basic technology (Public Access Computer in every library by 2002)

2.3 Develop a telecommunications plan and implementation strategy

2.4 Encourage and explore avenues of education and supports for the effective use of technology and electronic information resources

GOAL 3

Ensure the long-term viability of NHAIS and assure managerial efficiency of the system.

OBJECTIVE

3.1 Study the organizational structure of NHAIS and present recommendations to NHAIS

3.2 Support state and federal funding for NHAIS services

3.3 Seek alternative sources of funding

GOAL 4

Advocate for the public's right to information.

OBJECTIVE

4.1 Take a leadership role in providing affordable access to information

4.2 Encourage all N.H. libraries to fully participate in the programs of NHAIS

APPENDIX D

PROGRAM ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATION

All State Library administrative agencies receiving assistance under the Library Services and Technology Act, P.L. 104-108, must comply with the statutes and regulations cited below. To receive federal financial assistance, all applicants must provide this signed statement of program assurances.

The Applicant agrees that it will comply with Subtitle B of the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996--the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), (P.L. 104-208) pursuant to:

(1) Sec.213(6), the Applicant shall provide assurances that the officially designated State Library administrative agency has the fiscal and legal authority and capability to administer all aspects of this subtitle, will provide assurances for establishing the State's policies, priorities, criteria, and procedures necessary to the implementation of all programs under this Act, and will submit copies for approval as required by regulations promulgated by the Director.

(2) Sec.224(b)(6), the Applicant shall provide assurances satisfactory to the Director that it will make reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Director may require reasonably to carry out the State plan and to determine the extent to which funds provided under this Act have been effective in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(3) The applicant agrees that it will comply with 45 CFR Part 1183--Uniform Administrative Requirements For Grants And Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments under the rules for the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

This assurance is given in connection with any and all financial assistance from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) after the date this form is signed. This includes payments after such date for financial assistance approved before such date. The Applicant recognizes and agrees that any such assistance will be extended in reliance on the representatives and agreements made in this assurance, and that the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Applicant, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and on the Authorizing Official whose signature appears below.

For further information on the assurances, contact IMLS at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Signature of Authorizing Official

Name and Title of Authorizing Official

Date

APPENDIX E

CERTIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE STATE LEGAL OFFICER

I hereby certify that _____, (Name of State Agency)
_____, (Name of State) is the sole State Agency with
authority under State law to develop, submit and administer or supervise
the administration of the State Plan under the Library Services and Technology Act; that
_____ (Name of Authorized State Agency Official)
is the officer authorized to submit the State Plan for the named State Agency; that the
State Treasurer of _____ (Title of Officer other than State
Treasurer) has authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds
under the State Plan; and that all provisions contained in the Plan are consistent with State
law.

(Signature, Attorney General or
other State Legal Officer)

(Title)

(Date)